

B.) Amendments to the claims:

I claim:

1-10 (canceled)

11 (Currently Amended): A soundboard for an acoustic musical instrument comprising a core plate having two opposite faces and a plurality of single layer fibre coating sections adhered on at least one of the faces of said core plate, each of said fibre coating sections being composed of elongate fibres embedded in a carrier, the fibres of each of said coating sections being so arranged ~~on said one of said faces of said core plate~~ as to be multidirectional.

C¹ 12 (previously added): The soundboard according to claim 11 wherein in at least one of said coating sections the distribution of fibres per unit area varies.

13 (previously added): The soundboard according to claim 11 wherein at least some of the fibres in at least some of said coating sections have direction changes.

14 (previously added): The soundboard according to claim 11 wherein the fibres in at least some of said coating sections are arranged in groups extending in a similar direction.

O 15 (previously added): The soundboard according to claim 11 wherein the coating sections are in the form of strips.

O 16 (previously added): The soundboard according to claim 15 wherein at least some of the strips are separated from one another by gaps.

X 17 (previously added): The soundboard according to claim 11 wherein the fibres of at least some of said sections have varying thicknesses.

18 (previously added): The soundboard of claim 11 including a

plurality of said fibre coating sections adhered on each of said faces of said core plate.

19 (previously added): The soundboard according to claim 18 wherein the direction in which the fibres in the sections on one face of said core plate extend is different from the direction in which the fibres in the sections on the other face of said core plate extend.

20 (previously added): The soundboard according to claim 11 including a damping layer provided on said core plate in at least one zone thereof.

21 (currently amended): For use in an acoustic musical instrument of the kind having two soundboards of a resonant body of a bowed stringed instrument, at least one of said soundboards comprising a core plate having two opposite faces, and a plurality of fibre coating sections each of which has elongate fibres embedded in a carrier, ~~at least some of~~ said sections being adhered to one of said faces of said core plate, at least some of said sections being spaced by gaps from others thereof.

22 (previously added): A soundboard for use in an acoustic musical instrument, said soundboard comprising a core plate sandwiched between and adhered to fibre coating sections, each of said coating sections having a plurality of elongate fibres embedded in a carrier, said coating sections being arranged on said core plate in such manner that the fibres of at least some of said sections are multidirectional, at least some of said sections on at least one face of said core plate being spaced apart by gaps.

23 (previously added): The soundboard according to claim 22 wherein said sections are in the form of strips.

24 (previously added): The soundboard according to claim 23 wherein the strips on one face of said core plate are arranged differently from the strips on the opposite face said core plate.
